

REMARKS

The Office Action and cited references have been reviewed. Claims 1, 6, 9, and 23 have been amended. Claims 5, 10, 24, and 25 have been cancelled. New claims 32 and 33 have been added. Support for the amendment is found generally within the application. Claims 1-33 remain pending. Consideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Objection to the Specification

The Office Action included an objection to paragraph [0003] of the specification. A suggestion was made that the phrase "ThustTube Motors" and "ThustTube Modules" be amended to "ThrustTube Motors" and "ThrustTube Modules." The Applicants have made the suggested amendment to the Specification. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the objection to the specification is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claim Objections

The Office Action objected to claim 23, which depended from claim 1, on the ground that there was no antecedent basis for "the carriage" and "the rail." The Applicants have amended claim 23 so that the claim now depends from claim 11. Claim 11 introduces both "a carriage" and "a guide rail." Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the objection to claim 23 is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Allowed Claims

The Office Action has indicated that claims 11-22 and 28-31 are allowed. The Applicants thank the Examiner for the notice of allowed claims.

Allowable Claims

The Office Action has also indicated that claims 5-10 and 25 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim (claim 1), but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate all of the limitations of allowable claim 5. Claim 5 has been cancelled. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claim 1 is now allowable as written.

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New claim 32 incorporates all of the limitations of claim 1 and allowable claim 10. Claim 10 has been cancelled. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claim 32 is allowable as written.

New claim 33 incorporates all of the limitations of claim 1, claim 24, and allowable claim 25. Claims 24 and 25 have been cancelled. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claim 33 is allowable as written.

Also, the Office Action has indicated that claim 23 would be allowable if the objection to the claim is overcome. As noted above, claim 23 has been amended to more clearly define the invention. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that claim 23 is now in condition for allowance.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103

The Office Action has rejected Claims 1-3 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. App. No. 6,316,848 to Rohner, et al. (hereinafter "Rohner").

The Office Action has also rejected Claim 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Rohner in view of U.S. Pat. App. No. 4,692,673 to DeLong (hereinafter "DeLong") and Claims 26 and 27 over Rohner in view of U.S. Pat. App. No. 3,811,154 to Lindeman, et al. (hereinafter "Lindeman").

In light of the above-noted allowable subject matter and claim amendments incorporating the allowable subject matter, it is respectfully submitted that each of the above rejections is now moot and should be withdrawn. As such, claims 1-4, 24, 26, and 27 are allowable as written.

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Conclusion

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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